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## PACE President deplores the decision to hold so-called parliamentary and presidential elections in the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics

Strasbourg, 31.10.2014 - "I deplore the decision of the self-appointed authorities of the so-called Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics to hold 'parliamentary elections' and 'presidential elections' on 2 November 2014. They are in violation of the Minsk Protocol signed on 5 September and will hinder the implementation of the already fragile peace agreement. They are illegitimate and will not be recognised by the Assembly," said Anne Brasseur, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

Instead, the President called on the leadership of the so-called Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics to facilitate the holding of local elections, in line with Ukrainian legislation, as foreseen in the Minsk Protocol. In addition, she urged the Russian authorities to honour their commitments under the Minsk Protocol and not to recognise the outcome of the so-called Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics 'elections', which would undermine the peace process and risk further undermining stability in the region.



The Assembly brings together 318 members from the national parliaments of the 47 member states.

President: Anne Brasseur (ALDE) - Secretary General of the Assembly: Wojciech Sawicki.

Political groups: SOC (Socialist Group); EPP/CD (Group of the European People's Party);

EC (European Conservatives Group); ALDE (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe);

UEL (Group of the Unified European Left).